



Council Meeting to
elect the Mayor

Minutes

Wednesday 19
November 2025

Commencing at 7:00pm

Wycheproof Supper Room
367 Broadway, Wycheproof

Daniel McLoughlan
Chief Executive Officer



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Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 November 2025.**CHAIRPERSON:**

Daniel McLoughlan

Chief Executive Officer

COUNCILLORS:

Cr Alan Getley

Mallee Ward

Cr Bernadette Hogan

Mallee Ward

Cr Stephen Barratt

Lower Avoca Ward

Cr Bruce Stafford

Lower Avoca Ward

Cr Graeme Milne

Mount Jeffcott Ward

Cr Charmaine Delaney

Mount Jeffcott Ward

OFFICERS:

Jenna Allan

Director Corporate and Organisational Performance

Gaynor Atkin

Director Community Development

Jennifer Hewett

Manager Governance

Georgia Brown

Senior Executive Assistant

Anthony Smith

Executive Project Officer

1 COUNCIL WELCOME AND STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**WELCOME**

The Mayor welcomes all those present.

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Mayor acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting and pay our respects to their Elders and to the Elders from other communities who may be here today.

2 RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES

Paula Gardiner

Acting Director Infrastructure and Delivery

3 MAYORAL AND DEPUTY MAYORAL TERM OF OFFICE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to determine the Mayoral Term as per the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)* and Council's Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 7 and 8).

SUMMARY

Section 25 (1) of the Act provides that at a Council meeting that is open to the public, the Councillors must elect a Councillor to be the Mayor of the Council.

Further, section 26 (3) of the Act provides that before the election of the Mayor, Council must determine by resolution whether the Mayor is elected for a 1 year or 2 year term.

Council, at a meeting to elect the Mayor held Wednesday, 20 November 2024, pursuant to section 26 (3) of the *Act*, determined to elect the Mayor for a one-year term and not a two-year term.

MOTION

That Council, in accordance with section 26 (3) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, elects

1. the Mayor for a one-year term.
2. Notes the term of any Deputy Mayor is identical to the term of Mayor

MOVED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt

CARRIED.

(R/25/108)

4 ELECTION OF MAYOR

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for the Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) to call for nominations for the Mayor and undertake the election process (where required) and declare a Councillor as Mayor.

SUMMARY

The Election of the Mayor is conducted by the CEO in accordance with section 25 of the *Local Government Act 2020 (the Act)* and the Buloke Shire Council Governance Rules 2022.

The CEO will call for nominations for Mayor. All nominations must be seconded, any Councillor nominated has the right to refuse nomination.

If only one Councillor is nominated the CEO must declare that Councillor duly elected.

If more than one Councillor is nominated, the CEO will undertake the election process prescribed in the Governance Rules. Voting is by show of hands.

An absolute majority of the Councillors is required to elect the Mayor, Buloke Shire Council has 6 Councillors, an absolute majority is 4.

Once a Mayoral candidate receives an absolute majority of the Councillors, the Councillor is declared duly elected and assumes the Chair.

Cr Stafford nominated Cr Milne, Seconded Cr Delaney.

Cr Milne accepted the nomination.

Cr Getley nominated Cr Getley, Seconded Cr Barratt.

Cr Getley accepted the nomination.

As there were two nominations for office of the Mayor the Chief Executive Officer put it to the vote.

As Cr Milne has received an absolute majority of four votes, I declare Cr Milne duly elected as Mayor of Buloke Shire Council for a one year term commencing 19 November 2025.

5 NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR ASSUMES THE CHAIR

The CEO invites the newly elected Mayor to assume the Chair.

Cr Graeme Milne

It is a great honour to be elected as Mayor of Buloke Shire. I certainly have big shoes to fill. Cr Alan Getley has served as Mayor for the past three years, and in that time we have come a long way, though we still have plenty of work ahead of us.

We are fortunate to have a strong councillor group at this point in time, and we have a solid set of plans in place that staff have worked diligently on over recent months. There is still much to do, but I truly feel the Shire is in good hands.

After 13 years on Council, I've managed to avoid the position of Mayor quite well, but it has finally caught up with me. I want to thank Alan for the hard work he has put in and for the position he has helped place Council in. Despite many external pressures, Alan has held things together admirably.

There is a lot ahead of us, but I don't believe stepping into this leadership role will change the way I view the Shire or the way I approach my work. I'll continue doing what I have always done, and perhaps a little more.

I encourage everyone here to stay engaged with the work of the Shire. Thank you to those who already show interest and who are involved in committees and forums. Keep pushing for what you believe we can achieve, because if we work together, we truly can make it happen.

I believe we are in a strong position staff-wise. I have great faith in our people and am confident we will go a long way.

Thank you all for this opportunity.

6 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to call for Deputy Mayor nominations, undertake the election process (where required) and declare a Councillor as Deputy Mayor.

SUMMARY

It is recommended that Council elect a Deputy Mayor as per the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules 2022 – Part 2 (Clause 7 and 8).

The Mayor will call for nominations for Deputy Mayor. All nominations must be seconded, any Councillor nominated has the right to refuse nomination.

If only one Councillor is nominated the Mayor must declare that Councillor duly elected.

If more than one Councillor is nominated the Mayor will undertake the election process prescribed in the Governance Rules. Voting is by show of hands. An absolute majority of the Councillors is required to elect the Deputy Mayor.

An absolute majority of the Councillors is required to elect the Deputy Mayor, Buloke Shire Council has 6 Councillors, an absolute majority is 4.

Once a Deputy Mayoral candidate receives an absolute majority of the Councillors, the Councillor is declared duly elected as Deputy Mayor.

Cr Delaney nominated Cr Hogan, Seconder Cr Barratt.

Cr Hogan accepted the nomination.

As Cr Hogan is the only nominee the Mayor declared Cr Hogan duly elected as Deputy Mayor of Buloke Shire Council for a one year term commencing 19 November 2025.

7 APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES

PURPOSE

To review Council's delegates for organisations that are external to Council, and to appoint Councillors as delegates to the relevant organisations.

SUMMARY

Council is represented on a diverse range of community, state, regional and local organisations. Some of these organisations are established by state statute, or under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* or are effectively informal gatherings of individuals.

The distinctions are important in terms of the status of a Councillor as a member of the respective organisation, the nature of the appointment and their powers to commit Council to expenditure or other action.

The role of Councillors at these Committees is to represent Council, share information and contribute to the success of both the committees and Council.

Councillors have the opportunity to provide verbal and/or written updates on the activities and issues of these organisations and committees where they are a delegate, during Ordinary Council Meetings, under the Agenda item "Reports from Councillors", or if a decision is required in relation to any matter relating to their appointment on the organisation or committee, a Councillor may submit a Notice of Motion.

Some appointments may be specific to the Mayor and or Deputy Mayor, such as required by the Audit and Risk Committee Charter, Municipal Association of Victoria, North West Municipalities Association, per the inclusion of the Role instead of a Councillor name in the table.

MOTION

That Council adopts the following appointments of Councillors to the organisations listed for the 2025/26 Mayoral Term.

Organisation	Representative
Advance Sea Lake Inc.	Cr Getley
Audit and Risk Committee	Mayor, Cr Hogan
Australian Livestock Saleyards Association Inc.	Cr Milne
Berriwillock Community Development Group	Cr Getley
Birchip Housing Co-operative Committee	Cr Hogan
Birchip Community Forum	Cr Milne
Buloke & Northern Grampians Landcare Network	Cr Barratt
Buloke Tourism Board	Cr Milne
Calder Highway Improvement Committee	Cr Getley
Central Murray Regional Transport Forum	Cr Getley

Central Vic Greenhouse Alliance	Cr Stafford
Charlton Forum	Cr Stafford
Charlton Park Committee of Management	Cr Stafford
Culgoa Development Group Inc.	Cr Getley
Donald 2000 Inc.	Cr Delaney
Library Advisory Committee	Cr Hogan
Municipal Association of Victoria	Mayor
North Central Local Learning Employment Network	Cr Hogan
Nandaly Progress Association	Cr Hogan
North-West Municipalities Association	Mayor
Nullawil Progress Association	Cr Hogan
Rail Freight Alliance	Cr Milne
Recreational Water Users Alliance	Cr Getley, Cr Milne
Rural Councils Victoria	Mayor
Sunraysia Highway Improvement Committee	Cr Milne
Watchem Progress Association	Cr Milne
Wimmera Southern Mallee Development Ltd	Mayor
Wimmera Southern Mallee Transport Group	Cr Getley
Workspace Australia	Cr Delaney
Wycheproof Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	Cr Barratt
WycheAlive Community Forum	Cr Barratt

MOVED: Cr Alan Getley

SECONDED: Cr Stephen Barratt

CARRIED.
(R/25/109)

8 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

PURPOSE

The Council's Governance Rules 2022 states that at the Council Meeting to elect the Mayor, Council must fix the date, time and place of all Meetings of Council and Delegated Committees for the following year.

SUMMARY

The proposed Council Meeting Schedule for the following year is tabled for Council review and consideration.

In accordance with the Council's Governance Rules 2022, Council must fix the date, time and place of all Council meetings. The schedule of Council Meetings must be published in publications that are distributed throughout the municipality (including Council publications) and on Council's website at least once each year or with such greater frequency as the Chief Executive Officer determines.

The proposed Schedule lists a Council Meeting on the third Wednesday of each month and a Councillor Briefing on the first Wednesday of each month. There are no Council meetings and briefings scheduled for the month of January.

Council decisions can only be made by Council at a Meeting of Council where a quorum has been met. Meetings are held in accordance with the Buloke Shire Governance Rules and are open to the public unless a matter has been declared confidential in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Council meetings are livestreamed on Council's YouTube channel.

Councillor Briefings are held for Councillors to be briefed on matters that may be brought to Council for a decision, obtain clarification on projects/matters from staff, consider strategic ideas and issues, and to hear presentations by key stakeholders, regional and community organisations and individuals.

Meeting dates for the remainder of 2025 and for 2026 are required to be resolved by Council.

MOTION

That Council adopts the following Council Meeting Schedule for the 2025-2026 year with the amendment to the Donald Briefing to be held 2 September 2025:

Month	Briefing – 5.00pm	Council Meeting – 7:00pm
December 2025	Wycheproof (3)	Wycheproof (17)
January 2026	-	-
February 2026	Sea Lake (4)	Wycheproof (18)
March 2026	Nandaly (4)	Wycheproof (18)
April 2026	Watchem (1)	Wycheproof (15)
May 2026	Berriwillock (6)	Wycheproof (20)
June 2026	Culgoa (3)	Wycheproof (17)

July 2026	Charlton (1)	Wycheproof (15)
August 2026	Nullawil (5)	Wycheproof (19)
September 2026	Donald (2)	Wycheproof (16)
October 2026	Birchip (7)	Wycheproof (21)
November 2026	Wycheproof (4)	Wycheproof (18) <i>Election of the Mayor commencing 6.30 pm</i> <i>Council Meeting commencing 7.00pm</i>

MOVED: Cr Stephen Barratt

SECONDED: Cr Bernadette Hogan

CARRIED.
(R/25/110)

9 MEETING CLOSE

Councillor 12-Month Reflection:

Cr Bernadette Hogan (Deputy Mayor)

It has been an enjoyable year working with such a cohesive group. Our discussions have been easy, respectful, and productive, and I am confident this will continue.

We also have an exciting future ahead with our new councillors and executive team, filled with locals who bring valuable knowledge and commitment to our organisation.

It feels like a positive period of renewal, and I am genuinely looking forward to the term ahead and what we will achieve together.

Cr Charmaine Delaney

I have really enjoyed working with Council this year. I believe we are a proactive group with the best interests of our community at the centre of everything we do.

The way we approach issues together and make decisions has been very easy, because we are working as a combined force.

Cr Stephen Barratt

It has been a good year for our Council group. As a new councillor and a relatively new member of the community (having been here only six years), I've found it incredibly encouraging to work together with a shared purpose.

With a new Mayor and a new CEO, it feels like an exciting time for Council, and I believe we are heading in the right direction.

Cr Bruce Stafford

Congratulations to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on your election to these roles. I look forward to working with you both in the year ahead.

I have really enjoyed my first year on Council. It has been a very rewarding and productive year. There has been a great deal of hard work behind the scenes to get us to where we are today—not just from the councillor group, but also from the Executive Management Team, Council officers, and everyone involved in keeping the organisation running. I think it's important that we acknowledge that collective effort.

I would also like to thank Mayor Getley for his dedication and service over the past three years as Mayor.

Cr Alan Getley

Firstly, I want to thank Cr Milne for his work as Deputy Mayor. I also want to acknowledge the hard work and commitment shown by our new councillors—there is a lot to learn and many policies to navigate, and you have all done exceptionally well.

I would also like to congratulate councillors on the work we undertook following Mr O'Toole's resignation and the collaborative approach that led to the appointment of Mr McLoughlan as CEO. I believe this was a proactive and positive step for Council, and I look forward to what we will achieve together in our second year.

Meeting closed at 7:22pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next Council Meeting will be held in Wycheproof Hall Supper Room on 17 December 2025 at 7:00pm.